

Reply to Office Action of 05/12/2006
Amendment Dated: June 2, 2006

Appl. No.: 10/728,433
Attorney Docket No.: H0005842

Listing of Claims

1 Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A computer readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions for causing a first client system to enable a user to access a
3 plurality of databases through a ~~corresponding~~ plurality of client systems contained in a
4 manufacturing plant, wherein each of said plurality of client systems is already designed to
5 access data in ~~a corresponding one of~~ only some of said plurality of databases, wherein
6 execution of said one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors contained
7 in said first client system causes said one or more processors to perform the actions of:

8 executing a user application which is related to operation/control of a manufacturing
9 process in said manufacturing plant;

10 enabling said user to instantiate a user interface from said user application;

11 enabling said user to specify a database of interest and a search criteria using said
12 user interface, wherein ~~said database of interest is accessible via~~ a second client contained
13 in said plurality of client systems is already designed to access data in said database of
14 interest;

15 sending said search criteria to said second client;

16 receiving a corresponding response; and

17 displaying said corresponding response.

1 Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium of claim 1, further
2 comprising:

3 enabling said user to specify any desired one of multiple client systems and an
4 operation associated with data forming said corresponding response, said multiple client
5 systems being comprised in said plurality of client systems; and

6 executing said operation in said desired one of multiple client systems.

1 Claim 3 (Original): The computer readable medium of claim 2, wherein said user
2 interface is implemented in the form of an access module executed when said user
3 instantiates said user interface, further comprising:

4 receiving data representing said operation in said user application; and

5 sending said data representing said operation and data representing said response to

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1 said second client, wherein said second client executes said operation using said response.

1 Claim 4 (Original): The computer readable medium of claim 3, wherein said data
2 representing said response comprises an identifier of the data retrieved from said database
3 of interest.

1 Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A computer readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions for enabling a new user application to access data in a plurality of
3 databases accessible through a ~~corresponding plurality of user applications executing on a~~
4 ~~corresponding~~ plurality of client systems, wherein each of said plurality of client systems is
5 already designed to access data in only some of said plurality of databases, wherein said new
6 user application and said plurality of client systems ~~user applications~~ are related to
7 operation/control of a manufacturing process in a manufacturing plant, said computer
8 readable medium comprising:

9 means for implementing a first plurality of procedures according to a first interface,
10 wherein said first plurality of ~~interfaces~~ procedures can be implemented on each of said
11 plurality of client systems, wherein said first plurality of procedures enable retrieval of
12 desired data from a corresponding database accessible from ~~the corresponding user~~
13 ~~application implemented on~~ the corresponding client system; and

14 means for access which can be instantiated from said new user application executing
15 on a first client system which cannot access data in a first database, wherein said first
16 database is accessible through a second client system, wherein said first client system and
17 said second client system are contained in said plurality of client systems, wherein said
18 means for access enables a user to specify a said first database and a search query, wherein
19 said first database is contained in said plurality of databases, wherein said means for access
20 uses said first plurality of procedures implemented in said second client system according
21 to said first interface to retrieve data matching said query.

1 Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium of claim 5, further
2 comprising means for implementing a second plurality of procedures according to a second
3 interface, wherein said second plurality of procedures enable said ~~means for access~~ new user

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1 application to initiate and terminate an instance of said means for access.

1 Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium of claim 6, further
2 comprising means for implementing a third plurality of procedures according to a third
3 interface wherein said third plurality of procedures enable said means for access ~~block~~ to
4 communicate an operation selected by said user, wherein said operation is executed on data
5 accessed by said means for access.

1 Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium of claim 7, wherein
2 said operation is executed on ~~a user application~~ said second client system which retrieves
3 said data from the corresponding database.

1 Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method of enabling a new user application to access
2 data in a plurality of databases accessible through a ~~corresponding plurality of user~~
3 ~~applications executing on a corresponding~~ plurality of client systems, wherein each of said
4 plurality of client systems is already designed to access data in only some of said plurality
5 of databases, wherein said new user application and said plurality of client systems ~~user~~
6 ~~applications~~ are related to operation/control of a manufacturing process in a manufacturing
7 plant, said method comprising:

8 implementing a first plurality of procedures according to a first interface on each of
9 said plurality of client systems, wherein said first plurality of procedures enable retrieval of
10 desired data from a corresponding database accessible from ~~the corresponding user~~
11 ~~application implemented on~~ the corresponding client system; and

12 providing an access module which can be instantiated from said new user application
13 executing on a first client system which cannot access data in a first database, wherein said
14 first database is accessible through a second client system, wherein said first client system
15 and said second client system are contained in said plurality of client systems, wherein said
16 access module enables a user to specify a said first database and a search query, wherein said
17 first database is contained in said plurality of databases, wherein said access module uses
18 said first plurality of procedures implemented in said second client system according to said
19 first interface to retrieve data matching said query.

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1 Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 9, further comprising
2 implementing a second plurality of procedures according to a second interface, wherein said
3 second plurality of procedures enable said ~~access module~~ new user application to initiate and
4 terminate an instance of said access module.

1 Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 10, implementing a third
2 plurality of procedures according to a third interface wherein said third plurality of
3 procedures enable said access ~~block~~ module to communicate an operation selected by said
4 user, wherein said operation is executed on data accessed by said access module.

1 Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 11, wherein said operation is
2 executed on ~~a user application~~ said second client system which retrieves said data from the
3 corresponding database.

1 Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method of enabling a first client system to access
2 a plurality of databases through a ~~corresponding~~ plurality of client systems contained in a
3 manufacturing plant, wherein each of said plurality of client systems is already designed to
4 access data in only some ~~a corresponding one~~ of said plurality of databases, said method
5 comprising:

6 executing a user application which is related to operation/control of a manufacturing
7 process in said manufacturing plant;

8 enabling said user to instantiate a user interface from said user application;

9 enabling said user to specify a database of interest and a search criteria using said
10 user interface, wherein ~~said database of interest is accessible via~~ a second client contained
11 in said plurality of client systems is already designed to access data in said database of
12 interest;

13 sending said search criteria to said second client;

14 receiving a corresponding response; and

15 displaying said corresponding response.

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1 Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 13, said method further
2 comprising:

3 enabling said user to specify any desired one of multiple client systems and an
4 operation associated with data forming said corresponding response, said multiple client
5 systems being comprised in said plurality of client systems; and
6 executing said operation in said desired one of multiple client systems.

7 Claim 15 (Original): The method of claim 14, wherein said user interface is
8 implemented in the form of an access module executed when said user instantiates said user
9 interface, said method further comprising:

10 receiving data representing said operation in said user application; and
11 sending said data representing said operation and data representing said response to
12 said second client, wherein said second client executes said operation using said response.

1 Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein said data representing said
2 response comprises an identifier of the data retrieved from said database of interest.